

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



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the inside scoop

Last commentary:

AETC commander recalls Air Force career and salutes those in the command who have supported him during his leadership...

Page 2

Freedom:

Local woman's experiences of past prejudice leads to appreciation, celebration of freedom...

Page 9

Long road back:

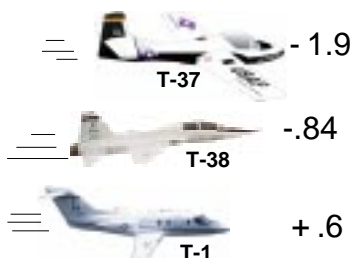
Senior airman separates from Air Force and finds civilian jobs to be less rewarding...

Pages 10,11

Mission status

(As of June 14)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)



Fiscal Year 2000 statistics

--Sorties flown: 46,467
--Hours flown: 68,888.3
--Pilot wings earned in FY 00: 226
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,591

Index:

Viewpoint.....page 2
News.....page 3
XLer.....page 4
Sports.....page 15
Classifieds.....page 17
Newsline.....page 20

Commissary adds signs to point out deals

By Bonnie Powell

Defense Commissary Agency

What's in a name? For some shoppers, everything. For others, price is the most important factor in making grocery-buying decisions.

The Defense Commissary Agency kicks off its "Best Value" program in July to make bargain hunting easier for military shoppers. "Best Value Item" signs at store entrances and on grocery shelves will assure shoppers they are getting a great price on a quality product.

"The Best Value program identifies items that are the lowest price at the name-brand quality our customers expect," said Gary Duell, manager of the agency's Marketing Business Unit. The program responds to the many customers who've indicated that saving money is their number one priority, he said.

Best Value prices will also be lower than premium quality store brands sold at retail groceries, he added.

Retail grocers often have "store" or "private label" brands that vary in quality and price. Commissaries, by regulation, are only permitted to carry widely

available "name brands," which may not be the least expensive.

The Best Value program won't apply to every size and type of grocery item carried by commissaries, according to Duell. The number of signs displayed and pricing comparisons needed would be overwhelming for customers and employees. In addition, the item list may change frequently according to market conditions.

"To kick off the program, we're focusing on approximately 50 popular products in the most frequently purchased sizes," Duell explained. A customer wanting the lowest price on a quality 30-count box of garbage bags can look for the "Best Value" sign. The price, he said, will be lower than the same size of any other brand in the commissary – or any other local grocery store. "We average 27 percent savings overall, but we want even more for our customers."

Surveys show that the commissary is ranked among the top two benefits, and the agency's job is to make that benefit even more valuable."

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Thelma Adams, family member, writes a check for her groceries at the base commissary Tuesday as Mirna M. Cardenas, cashier clerk, looks on. Signs will soon point shoppers to better values.

Leadership management program offered to civilian employees

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller

Air Force Print News

The Air Force is looking for about 170 civilian employees in grades GS-12 through GS-15 to participate in two ongoing leadership and management programs in 2001.

Under the Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Program, the service will select 100 to 110 candidates - nominated by senior leaders - to participate in career broadening activities, while under the Defense Leadership

and Management Program 50 to 60 qualified candidates will be selected.

According to Greg Den Herder, deputy director of personnel force management, initiatives offered through these leadership development programs include increased opportunities for education, training and development, relocation bonuses to help offset the cost of geographic moves and an increased number of professional military education seats for civil-

ian employees.

Taking a cue from active-duty career development programs, the CCDP and DLAMP offer a framework wherein civilian employees can manage their careers to reach their maximum leadership potential.

Commanders must submit their nominations for both programs to the Air Force Senior Executive Matters Office by Aug. 18. CCDP selections will be announced in No-

See 'Program' page 8

A Korean War Memorial 50th Anniversary ceremony will be held June 23 at 5 p.m. at the wing headquarters building. The guest speaker for the event is Col. (ret.) Donald S. Robb.

Following winds and blue skies:

AETC commander looks back on successful Air Force career

My time as commander of Air Education and Training Command is coming to an end. Even more momentous for me, my service as an active duty airman in the world's greatest aerospace force is coming to a close.

As I look back on 34 years in the Air Force, I feel an immense sense of gratitude and appreciation for the men and women with whom I have served. What I will miss the most will be the people of the Air Force – their camaraderie, the sense of team and the closeness of community I've found no matter where I've been stationed. I think this support sets the Air Force – and the military in general – apart from all other organizations.

But, let me add that I've been very gratified to see the strong and mutually supportive community relationships enjoyed by our bases. As a former wing commander and as AETC commander, I am truly grateful for the strong support, warmth and consideration shown by our neighboring communities.

Having served in the First Command for more than three years, I have come to realize that how well we lay the foundation of training and education will determine the quality and well-being of the Air Force for at least the next three decades.

We in AETC have faced many extraordinary challenges and achieved some remarkable accomplishments. During this time, we doubled pilot production, which along with retention incentives and other measures, has stabilized the shortage of pilots in our cockpits. One part of the equation to increase pilot production involved creating a solidly managed and cost-effective introductory flight training program to prepare candidates for pilot



A View from the Top
By Gen. Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton
AETC commander

training. Additionally, we brought on Reserve Forces instructor pilots to help with flight training. At the same time, we've been working to modernize the pilot training aircraft by bringing the T-6A Texan II on line, and upgrading the T-38.

We also built a significantly enhanced basic military training course to include more training in a field environment and more physical rigor. These changes will better prepare our Airmen for today's expeditionary environment and, along with our Aerospace Basic Course for new officers, will form the groundwork for building the Air Force of the future.

This Command also took on the most innovative strategic sourcing and privatized housing programs in the Defense Department to find efficiencies and savings to support service modernization, quality of life and readiness needs.

I could cite many more examples of how you, the men and women of AETC, successfully tackled some very complex problems with dedication and intelligence.

Other challenges will continue and I'm sure you'll overcome them successfully, as well. Most significantly, recruiting is one of the primary concerns facing the Air Force today. I am extremely confident our initiatives to increase recruiter presence throughout America, and expand advertising and other outreach programs will turn



Gen. Newton

the corner on this difficult challenge.

Improving retention is the other half of our challenge throughout the Air Force. We need to pay attention every day to those who are already on board working hard and taking up the slack. Quality of life issues and mentoring of our experienced airmen are important goals for all of us. It will have long-term, positive effects on our recruiting

needs. Our current recruiting and retention challenges underscore the view I have long held – people are absolutely our most important resource. We will continue to need your help to recruit quality airmen for the force.

During my tenure, I have expressed thanks, in person and in writing, to many of you for your superb, tireless work to help AETC and the Air Force succeed.

Nonetheless, I know many of you have worked very hard and made contributions that I don't know about directly. I want to emphasize again to all of you that I genuinely appreciate your efforts on behalf of the Air Force and our great nation.

As my retirement nears, I would like to leave you with some thoughts that might help with your own flight plan and destination.

As I thought about what would be most useful and on target, I kept coming back to the words you already know – Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence In All We Do – our Air Force core values.

I'd like to tell you what they mean to me.

Integrity First is obvious. In the face of challenges and choices, be honest and be fair. Always. Integrity is not negotiable. You can learn and grow from mistakes of inexperience or oversight, but you and your career may never recover from a breach of integrity. Be hon-

See 'Newton' page 8

Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Winfield W. Scott III

Col. Winfield W. Scott III
47th Flying Training Wing commander

The price is set...

Call: I have a question. Is the manager of the Cactus Cantina at the base exchange an employee of AAFES? It seems that she acts on her own, sets her own prices and hours. Is she accountable to the customers and population? Thank you.

Response: The Cactus Cantina food manager, located at Fort Sam Houston, is responsible for establishing prices based on cost of goods. Prices for items procured locally, such as soft drinks, coffee and ice cream, are set by local survey. We recently streamlined the menu to include value meals, which gives the customer the best price for a meal.

The hours of operation have been adjusted to match traffic flow in the BX; Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. through 3 p.m. The Cactus Cantina is closed Sunday and Monday.

A Burger King will soon replace the Cactus Cantina. Construction begins in July, with completion in August or September.

Child care...

Call: I have a question concerning base daycare. I am having a difficult time finding adequate daycare on base. Is there any way daycare can be expanded to fill the very real need we, who work on base, have? Thanks.

Response: Thank you for your question. In order to provide a specific answer to better assist you in acquiring care for your children, we need to know the ages of your children and the type of care you desire.

We currently do not have a waiting list in the Child Development Center, Youth School Age, or Family Child Care programs. The FCC coordinator maintains a list of Del Rio centers that provide child care and the youth staff maintains a Red Cross list of trained baby-sitters.

Please contact Barbara Bukowski at the CDC at 5419; Denise Booth or Karen Cook at the Youth Center at 4363, or Dee Dee White at the FCC at 5631. They can assist you in meeting childcare needs.

Air Education and Training Command tries new method to protect environment by 'getting the lead out' of small-arms training

By Olga Purpura-Clark
AETC Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command is trying new methods to save the environment and decrease health risks to members by using lead-free ammunition for small arms training.

Under temporary approval from the Air Force, AETC is purchasing commercial lead-free ammunition directly from a manufacturer for security forces at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and Goodfellow and Randolph Air Force bases in Texas.

AETC security forces, environmental and health officials began researching the environmentally safe bullets when lead contamination caused by conventional ammunition began hampering the training mission.

Conventional ammunition sends lead dust into the air increasing the amount of lead already present when it settles on the surface.

Because of this exposure, range training has been drastically reduced by 60 percent, according to Senior Master Sgt. Randy Roth, AETC Security Forces superintendent of training and resources.

At many bases, combat arms members have been forced to reduce the number of rounds students fire, and in some instances, eliminate non-critical training at firing ranges because of the lead exposure, explained

Roth. Currently, the command conducts an 80-round specialized rifle course instead of the prescribed 200-round course because the airborne lead levels are very high and could otherwise endanger the health of range personnel.

To help increase working conditions along with training, the three bases were chosen to evaluate the environmentally-friendly ammunition, said Dennis Kirsch, an AETC environmental engineer.

"Our priority is the health of our troops – to keep our people from breathing it and making direct contact with it through safe management practices even though this may hamper our training capabilities," said Roth.

As environmental and safety regulations become more strict, the command has to either find a way to eliminate the source of the problem or continue to curtail training, said Kirsch.

"Lead-free ammunition will correct many of our range problems," he added.

In addition to improving the environment by using the new ammunition, AETC will save a great deal of the \$10 million the Air Force spends every year to remove lead from its small arms ranges. "Several of our bases have bullet traps right now that are severely damaged and require extensive repairs," said Roth. "The disintegration of the

rounds will reduce damage to the traps."

Some AETC bases have already resorted to using plastic bullets to conduct M-16 rifle training. Roth said this type of ammunition requires weapon modifications, and because it's low-powered, it can't simulate the effects of firing conventional rounds. Plastic bullets present health hazards as well since the primer on the rounds creates airborne lead. He also said there is no plastic bullet ammunition made that is suitable for pistols or belt-fed machine guns.

The new lead-free ammunition looks very similar to conventional ball ammunition, except the projectiles are made from tungsten and copper powders bonded with nylon, Roth said. The primer compounds are free of lead and other toxic metals. The ammunition is available in 5.56 mm for the M-16 rifle and M-249 automatic rifle and 9 mm for the M-9 and M-11 pistols. The weapons do not need to be modified to use the bullets, which perform similar to their conventional counterpart at training distances.

To prove this, officials conducted a preliminary test of lead-free 9 mm ammunition by replacing conventional ammunition with it during the Defender Challenge handgun competition held at Lackland AFB in November.

Unknowningly, security forces



Photo by Tech Sgt. James E. Lotz

teams fired the environmentally safe bullets. According to Roth, officials didn't want to disrupt the competitors' concentration by letting them know beforehand "they were trying something new."

"The results were fantastic," said Roth. "Shooters were very pleased and they easily accepted this new concept of training."

The accuracy at 25 meters is indistinguishable between the two types of ammunition, explained Roth. An additional advantage is that the bullets are frangible, meaning they disintegrate upon contact with a hard surface. This is a big plus because there is no back splash to hit the shooters from steel plate targets, which is a safety hazard with conventional ammunition.

Lead-free ammunition was primarily developed for law enforcement training to alleviate the health and environmental hazards at small arms ranges. The trend caught on at other civilian and federal agencies, and

The new lead-free ammunition looks very similar to conventional ball ammo, except the projectiles are made from tungsten and copper powders bonded with nylon. The primer compounds are free of lead and other toxic metals.

now, Department of Defense branches are testing it. The Navy and Marine Corps are presently engaged in extensive testing of lead-free ammunition for both training and tactical use.

According to Roth, the Navy was first in evaluating the safety and functionality of the rounds with positive results. The Navy is also type classifying the ammunition to assign a National stock number for central procurement by all services.

"We're tagging on our requirements to the Navy's and have developed an Air Force annex to their joint operational requirements document with a focus on our needs," said Roth.

"Our purpose for wanting lead-free ammunition is different from the Army's," said Roth. "With this ammo, we can stop hazardous waste generation at our ranges and most importantly, we can eliminate the health hazards to our people training on and cleaning our ranges. It's the right thing to do."

(Courtesy AETC News Service)

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"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

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Submissions can be E-mailed to: michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil or reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

Where are they now?

Name: Capt. Chris DeSalle.
Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: July, 1997; Class 97-12.
Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: F-15C, Eglin Air Force Base.
Mission of your current aircraft? Air superiority.
What do you like most about your current aircraft? The mission!
What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? I don't fly enough!
What was the most

important thing you learned from your time at Laughlin, besides learning how to fly? The people you graduate with are the same ones you will go to war with. Help everyone to become their best.
What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Making lifelong friends.
What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Try as hard as you possibly can. You have only got one shot, so make it count!



U.S. Air Force photo of a F-15

The *XLer*

Hometown: Watonga, Okla.
Family: Husband, Ron; daughter, Sonja.
Time at Laughlin: 10 years, 9 months.
Time in service: 12 years.
Why did you join the Air Force family? I married an airman.
Long-term goals: Retire and travel.
Greatest accomplishment: Marrying my wonderful husband 36 years ago.
Bad Habit: Trusting others too quickly.
Hobbies: Reading and sewing.
If you could spend one hour with any person in history, who would it be and why? My grandfather Scott. I miss his tales. Most of them were true. He was a sheriff then a game warden.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Billie Brunson
Outdoor Recreation

EPA to restrict use of common household product

After a lengthy review, the Environmental Protection Agency concluded that the chemical compound chlorpyrifos poses a risk to children because of its potential effects on the nervous systems and possibly brain development, and has restricted the commercial use of these pesticides.

Chlorpyrifos is a pesticide that attacks the central nervous system of insects. According to

Dow Chemicals, chlorpyrifos may be found in up to 80 commercial products used for killing insects like cockroaches, ticks, fleas, termites, ants, spiders, centipedes, beetles and other common agricultural and household pests. Chlorpyrifos is the active ingredient in the Dow Chemical insecticides Dursban, Equity, Empire and Lorsban.

The current supply of these pesticides will continue to be

sold in stores, but Dow Chemicals has voluntarily canceled the production for commercial sales.

Products containing chlorpyrifos are not available in the Pride Store, but the Commissary and the base exchange may have some products containing this active chemical.

Consumers should read the ingredients of all purchased insecticides to ensure chlorpyrifos is not an active ingredient. In

addition, the insecticide is prohibited for use by commercial pest control or lawn care companies, with the exception of those spot treating for termites until December 31, 2002. Chlorpyrifos-containing insecticides will continue to be used on agricultural products, but the EPA will impose tighter restrictions to reduce the chemical's residue on foods often consumed by children.

It is recommended that parents thoroughly wash all fresh fruits and vegetables before consuming or using them in foods. This reduces residues that exist in pesticides commonly used in agriculture.

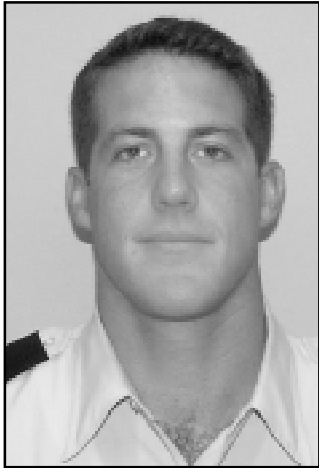
If you need any additional information on this chemical product, contact the Environmental Flight at 298-5063.

(Courtesy 47 CES
Envioronmental Flight)



Question of the week

What is the greatest thing your father has taught you?



“Determination. Make goals for yourself and achieve them.”
2nd Lt. Michael Swift
47th Operations Support Squadron



“My dad taught me to cherish the ingenuity and truths behind the Mexican “dichos” (sayings) and historical quotes. One of the greatest of these was spoken by Benito Juarez: “El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz.” This means “respect for the rights of others brings peace.”
Dan Gallegos
47th Civil Engineer Squadron



“Do the right thing!”
Staff Sgt. Keith Hellwig
47th Security Forces Squadron



“He has helped teach me how to read.”
Emily Hunerwadel, 7
Family member



From the Blotter

(From May 28-June 3)



- A military member reported that he was walking with his family when a stray dog with no collar attacked his dog. The owner of the stray was contacted and charged for failure to comply with base pet regulations.
- Val Verde County sheriff’s deputies responded to a family dispute between two civilians. No arrests were made.
- A military member reported unknown persons had stolen her cellular phone from the XL Fitness Center.
- A military member reported his Sony Discman, Sony speakers and 45 compact discs were stolen from his office.
- A military member reported 50 to 60 dollars

in mixed bills was stolen from the snack bar fund.

■ Security forces personnel assisted Val Verde Sheriff’s Department with traffic control at an off-base accident caused by inattentive driving. Two injured individuals were transported to Val Verde Regional Medical Center by ambulance.

Tip of the week: *The law enforcement desk is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Immediate reporting of incidents greatly assists security forces in establishing a time line of the incident and speeds up investigation procedures. Waiting to see if things “turn out” only hinders the investigation process.*

‘Program’ from page 1

vember with DLAMP selections named in December.

Although selections to CCDP and DLAMP are made at the same time, they remain separate and distinct programs.

According to Den Herder, the DLAMP is designed to cultivate select employees from GS - 13 through GS-15 grades into leaders and managers through

training, education, and professional development over a six-year period.

Participants must finish a 12-month rotational assignment, senior-level PME, and at least 10 graduate-level courses in a broad range of subjects appropriate for defense leaders.

The CCDP is a leadership track designed to help people in grades GS-12 through GS-15 compete for promotion by se-

lecting the right person at the right time for the right training, he said. Then they’re expected to put that training to work in an appropriate follow-on assignment.

David Dais, chief of U.S. Transportation Command’s airlift team at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., attended the Harvard Senior Executive Fellows program through the CCDP.

“It had all those skill sets a senior manager needs to have,”

he said. “It taught me again what it means to be a public servant.”

“Senior leadership within the Air Force views the education, training, and development of the civilian force as critical to sustaining Air Force readiness,” Den Herder said. “Toward that end they are investing in the civilian force and have legislative initiatives before Congress that will allow for shaping the civilian force of tomorrow.”

‘Newton’ from page 2

est with the people you lead and the people you serve. Always demand the same of them.

Excellence In All We Do does not mean perfection in all we do. Perfection is realistically impossible. In some cases, demanding perfection is counter-productive if the “big picture” is diminished or forgotten. In your quest for excellence, seek the judgment and knowledge to know which tasks demand “near perfection” and which are best served by a slightly less level.

Service Before Self may be the hardest core value to interpret. You might think it means sacrificing every personal aspect of your life and family for the service. That’s not what our Air Force asks of you. We ask that you keep faith with your oath to “support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies” As such, take on your duties with a deep sense of responsibility, pride and ownership.

When I began this journey 34 years ago, I could not have known the richness of my road ahead. I could not possibly have charted such an amazing course had it not been for the many leaders and mentors who took the time and effort to teach me, to trust in me and to give me a chance to succeed. They forged in me the desire to create a leadership environment where all our people are treated as full members of the team, can grow to their full potential and be rewarded for their contributions. I hope I have repaid their faith and trust by serving as a worthy mentor to those who follow in the years to come.

I extend my deepest thanks to Elouise, and to my parents who passed away last year. Words cannot express my heartfelt gratitude for the love and support of my wife and family.

It’s somewhat ironic that the First Command should be my last command, but it’s been a perfect fit. Nothing gives me more pride and satisfaction than seeing the airmen we are helping to mold to serve this great nation. Elouise joins me in saluting all of you. Proud to serve!

(Courtesy AETCNS)

Juneteenth holiday: a celebration of freedom for all

By Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Public affairs

Freedom. Such a little word, such a profound meaning.

To Joni Jordan, growing up in Del Rio during the turbulent times of racial inequality prior to the Civil Rights Movement, the word ‘freedom’ is among the most powerful in the English language.

“Having grown up here when we (as black people) were restricted from swimming in the public pool, were unable to order or eat in restaurants and could only work as laborers to make a living, freedom really means a lot to me,” said Jordan, an employee relations specialist in the 47th Mission Support Squadron Civilian Personnel Flight. “Now, every morning when I walk into my own office, sit at my own computer and use my own telephone, I think of the word ‘freedom’ – because that’s what freedom is to me.”

At the age of 12, Jordan got an early taste of racial discrimination while playing semi-professional softball with the Del Rio Red Jets. While on the road, it was common for her to have to stay the night at the houses of local ministers – black people

weren’t allowed to stay in the motels. But one night in a small Texas town stands out from all the rest. “Coming through the town of Sabinal, around a bend across from an old oak tree, there used to be a little restaurant,” Jordan explained. “One night, our team was returning to Del Rio from a road game – and we were very hungry because we hadn’t had dinner yet. We stopped at this restaurant and sat down to look at the menus. After a

while, the manager called our coach up to the counter,” she continued. “We couldn’t hear what was said, but we all noticed our coach was visibly upset – he was getting red in the face, and moving his arms around as he spoke. Finally, he came back to the table and said ‘Let’s go.’ Most of us complained and asked why we had to go – we were hungry, and it would be a while before we got to Del Rio.” Jordan’s eyes dropped to her desk as she quietly continued, “Then the coach told us the people at the restaurant said I would have to order back in the kitchen, pick up my food and eat out in the bus. At that point, everyone at the table turned over their glasses, unfolded the napkins and walked out of there. To this day, when I drive through that town I feel a little tinge of emotion go through me – all these years later.”

With these and many other experiences of discrimination in her past, Jordan dedicates a great deal of her time to her duties as chairperson of Laughlin’s Black Heritage Committee, which she founded in 1977. In addition to the BHC’s activities, which include raising money to give scholarships to deserving college-bound black people, Jordan also serves as coordinator

of Del Rio’s first Juneteenth celebration in approximately 50 years.

Juneteenth, named an official Texas state holiday in 1980, is a celebration linked to the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation – President Abraham Lincoln’s executive order setting the slaves free. Though the proclamation became effective Jan. 1, 1863, word of it didn’t reach Texas until June 19, 1865, when Maj. Gen. Gor-

“... Then the coach told us the people at the restaurant said I would have to order back in the kitchen, pick up my food and eat out in the bus ...”

-Joni Jordan
47 MSS Civilian Personnel Flight

Juneteenth Details:

- **When?** *Saturday, 10 a.m.*
- **Where?** *Del Rio. Parade begins at the corner of Academy and Main St., and proceeds to Moore Park. At 9 p.m., a street dance begins in the parking lot of Sacred Heart Catholic Church – on Losoya St. in Del Rio.*

don Granger and Union troops landed at Galveston, Texas and announced that the Civil War was over and the slaves were free.

While the holiday is founded on the granting of freedom to black people, Jordan stressed that this year’s celebration – scheduled to kick off at 10 a.m. Saturday with a parade down Main Street in Del Rio – is not limited in focus to only black people. “It’s really time for people to get out of the thinking that certain observances and holidays are only for a particular group of people,” Jordan said. “Freedom is something we all enjoy. Wars have been fought for freedom – it is a precious commodity. Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom, so I encourage everyone to come out and celebrate Saturday.”

The parade (which starts at the corner of Academy and Main St., turns right at the railroad station and proceeds down Ogden St. to Moore Park) marks the first time in Del Rio history there has been a black organization-sponsored parade down Main St., according to Jordan.

At Moore Park, there will be a free barbecue with

See ‘Juneteenth,’ page 13

I am the flag: *America celebrates Flag Day June 14*

By Ruth Apperson Rous

I am the flag of the United States of America.

I was born on June 14, 1777, in Philadelphia.

There the Continental Congress adopted my stars and stripes as the national flag.

My thirteen stripes alternating red and white, with a union of thirteen white stars in a field of blue, represented a new constellation, a new nation dedicated to the personal and religious liberty of mankind.

Today fifty stars signal from my union, one for each of the fifty sovereign states in the greatest constitutional republic the world has ever known.

My colors symbolize the patriotic ideals and spiritual quali-

ties of the citizens of my country.

My red stripes proclaim the fearless courage and integrity of American men and boys and the self-sacrifice and devotion of American mothers and daughters.

My white stripes stand for liberty and equality for all.

My blue is the blue of heaven, loyalty and faith.

I represent these eternal principles: liberty, justice and humanity.

I embody American freedom: freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the press and the sanctity of the home.

I typify that indomitable spirit of determination brought to my land by Christopher Columbus and by all my forefathers -

the Pilgrims, Puritans, settlers at James Town and Plymouth.

I am as old as my nation.

I am a living symbol of my nation's law: the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.

I voice Abraham Lincoln's philosophy: "A government of the people, by the people, for the people."

I stand guard over my nation's schools, the seedbed of good citizenship and true patriotism.

I am displayed in every schoolroom throughout my nation; every schoolyard has a flag pole for my display.

Daily thousands upon thousands of boys and girls pledge their allegiance to me and my country.

I have my own law-Public Law 829, "The Flag Code" - which definitely states my correct use and display for all occasions and situations.

I have my special day, Flag Day. June 14 is set aside to honor my birth.

Americans, I am the sacred emblem of your country. I symbolize your birthright, your heritage of liberty purchased with blood and sorrow.

I am your title deed of freedom, which is yours to enjoy and hold in trust for posterity.

If you fail to keep this sacred trust inviolate, if I am nullified and destroyed, you and your children will become slaves to dictators and despots.

Eternal vigilance is your price of freedom.

As you see me silhouetted against the peaceful skies of my country, remind yourself that I am the flag of your country, that I stand for what you are - no more, no less.

Guard me well, lest your freedom perish from the earth.

Dedicate your lives to those principles for which I stand: "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

I was created in freedom. I made my first appearance in a battle for human liberty.

God grant that I may spend eternity in my "land of the free and the home of the brave" and that I shall ever be known as "Old Glory," the flag of the United States of America.

(Courtesy <http://www.usflag.org/>)

INFOCON safety tips:

You can ensure that you are doing everything possible to safeguard our way of life by following a few basic computer security principles:

- Use a proper computer password of at least eight alphanumeric characters using upper/lower case and special function keys.
- Use a password-protected screensaver when you are away from your computer terminal for brief periods of time.
- E-mail attachments, as demonstrated recently, are some of the most direct and effect ways the average computer user can help safeguard all of us. Never open an e-mail attachment that you cannot verify the origin and content of. Also, be on the lookout for attachments in e-mails that arrive in multiple from the same user and those that seem unnaturally worded.
- A virus sent through e-mail can do absolutely no harm if it is not opened.

Laughlin parents get chance to show their kids what they do on: **Bring your child to work day**



Photo by Jim Teet

Staff Sgt. Michael Hitchcock of the 47th Operations Support Squadron Life Support Section helps Luana Shafer adjust a helmet and mask during a tour of the 47 OSS workcenters. She is the daughter of Maj. and Mrs. Alan Shafer.



Photo by Trina Ezernack

Airman 1st Class Billy West, 47th Communications Squadron, supervises as his daughter Hayle West helps to tune a radio.

Children were able to feel the excitement of going to work with Mom and Dad when Laughlin held its "Bring Your Child to Work Day June 8."

Approximately 55 children went to work with their parents to see exactly what keeps Mom and Dad busy during the day.

Of the 25 wing agencies/squadrons, 20 participated in the event. Coordinators for the event said they felt it was very successful in turnout and the educational benefits it offered to those who are considering what to do with their futures.

"I consider the program a success if even one child participates and gets an idea of what their parents do every day," said Sabrina Pena, family life educator at the base Family Support Center and coordinator for the event. The day is targeted at middle school and high school children who are in the stages of career exploration. This is a perfect time for them to be exposed to a variety of careers so they can decide how they want to contribute to the world of work," she emphasized.

Laughlin's Bring Your Child to Work Day is a combination of "Take Our Daughters to Work" which is celebrated the last Thursday of April and "Take Our Sons to Work" which is celebrated the first Thursday in May. Col. Skip Scott, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, approved combining these two important events into one. The combination ensured children would not miss a day of school. The theme for this year was "Proud to be Me."



Photo by Jim Teet

Luana Shafer peers through binoculars while she and Rachel Lethco get a bird's-eye view of the Laughlin flightline during a visit to the air traffic control tower. Rachel is the 11-year old daughter of Tech. Sgt. Tim Lethco, an air traffic controller in the 47 OSS.

Air traffic controller recalls trials, tribulations while on the long road back to service:

By Tech. Sgt.
Sean E. Cobb

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

She joined the Air Force in October 1987 – she joined again in October 1998. After getting out for seven years, then re-enlisting, this airman is here to stay.

Senior Airman Cindy R. Abbott, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, originally joined the Air Force to see the world, and ended up with enough great experiences to make her want to join a second time.

“I’m from a small town,” Abbott said. “I wanted to get away and experience the world. During my first enlistment, I saw a lot more than I had ever had.”

“I had some great assign-

ments at Keesler AFB, Miss., Travis AFB, Calif., survival school at Tinker AFB, Okla. and a four month temporary duty assignment in Honduras,” she added. I met a lot of different people from many different cultures, and it was a profound experience for me.”

After four years in the Air Force, Abbott had a plan. “I really liked what I was doing in the Air Force – air traffic control,” she said. “The only reason I got out was because I had a job lined up with the Federal Aviation Administration making more money than I was making in the Air Force. That sounded good to me, getting paid more for doing the same job.”

“I started the FAA hiring

process, met all the qualifications and turned down re-enlisting in the Air Force,” she said. “Then it all fell apart. The FAA put on a hiring freeze, and when I tried to re-enlist in the Air Force it was too late, so I ended up getting out without a job.”

Abbott began a series of jobs trying to get her life back on track again. “I waited tables for a bit, but that was not for me,” she said. “Then, I went to work for a studio photography company. I worked there for about a year, but the pay and benefits weren’t any good and I wasn’t going anywhere.

“Then, I hit the highlight of my out-of-the-Air-Force career – I went to work in the sewers of Waco, Texas. I never thought that after four years in the Air Force as an air traffic controller I would end up crawling around in the sewers of a

city,” Abbott said. “This was definitely not the high point of my working life. The pay and benefits were a little better than my other two civilian jobs, but nowhere near what I had in the Air Force,” she said.

But Abbott was still looking for something better, something more like her Air Force career, she said. “So I got a job with the Austin, Texas Police Department as a dispatcher. This was the best job I had on the outside, but the benefits and retirement packages were still nothing compared to what I had left behind.”

“Some people may think Tricare isn’t good, but I can tell you from personal experience it is better than anything I had out there,” she said. “First off, with other medical plans there are all these premiums, deductibles and co-payments. After it’s all

added up, I was paying \$3,000 a year into a medical plan, and that was while I was healthy.”

“Then there are all your other benefits, non-taxable allowances for housing and food, the services we have on base, job security and then of course retirement,” she added. “The Air Force retirement plan I have now beats anything I had in my civilian jobs – if they even had a retirement plan.”

Even though she had a good job with the Austin PD, there was still something missing, she said. “I missed being around airplanes. I have always loved airplanes and if I couldn’t be an air traffic controller, I figured, why not be a pilot?” So with her GI bill in hand she moved to Waco and enrolled in the Texas State Technical College aviation program.

After being in this program for a year, Abbott got news that would change her life. “I was close to getting my private pilot’s license when I heard the Air Force was taking back prior-service air traffic controllers,” she said. “So I contacted this great recruiter in Illinois – Tech. Sgt. Craig Ploessl. There were lots of phone calls that had to be made, and he stuck with it and got me back in. I really appreciate what he did for me.”

“This job is challenging and constantly changing, so it never gets boring. I am definitely in for the long haul.”

(Courtesy AFNEWS)

‘Juneteenth,’ from page 9

many trimmings (made possible by private donations from the citizens of Del Rio), plus booths and music – and Col. Herb Foret, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcala will be among the speakers at the event. At 9 p.m., a street dance is planned at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church parking lot on Losoya St. By an unforeseen coincidence, that parking lot is the exact location of the last celebration of Juneteenth in Del Rio, 50 years ago, Jordan explained.

Jordan said she encourages everyone to come out and celebrate Juneteenth Saturday. “We still see examples of hatred and inequality in society today,” she said. “The only way to overcome hatred is with love.”

For Jordan, Juneteenth is more than just a celebration of a historical event. It is a celebration of freedom – a small word with profound meaning.



**Double
your
intake.**

If you aren’t looking at the United States Air Force Online News Wednesday, you aren’t getting all of the news.

After you read this paper, check out your other newspaper at:
<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

Laughlin Sports

(Standings current as of Wednesday)

Trap and Skeet

Team	Week 8 score	Total
SVS	105.5	821.5
ADS #1	93	819.5
87 FTS	56	778
ADS #2	72	754.5
84 FTS	47	642
CES	24	457.5

Volleyball

Team	Wins	Losses
84/85 FTS	5	0
CES	4	2
OSS	4	1
MDG	3	2
87 FTS	3	2
SFS	1	4
LCSAM	1	5
CS/SVS/CONS	0	5

Schedule of games for June 19-23:

Tuesday
7 p.m. – CES vs 84/85 FTS
8 p.m. – MDG vs 87 FTS

Thursday
7 p.m. – SFS vs 87 FTS
8 p.m. – OSS vs CS/CONS/SVS

Softball

Team	Wins	Losses
CS/SVS/CONS	3	0
LSI	3	0
LCSAM	2	0
CES	3	1
OSS #1	3	1
SFS	2	2
87 FTS	2	2
MDG #2	1	1
OSS #2	1	2
EAST	0	3
MDG #1	0	4
84/85 FTS	0	4

Schedule of games for June 19-23:

Monday
7 p.m. – MDG #2 vs 84/85 FTS
8 p.m. – LCSAM vs CS/CONS/SVS
9 p.m. – 87 FTS vs SFS

Wednesday
7 p.m. – MDG #1 vs EAST
8 p.m. – OSS #1 vs OSS #2
9 p.m. – 87 FTS vs LSI

Golf

Team	Points
Fire Deptartment	48
LCSAM	41.5
OSS	39
LSI #1	38
Services	36
LSI #2	26.5

If you're interested in writing short stories on intramural games for the Border Eagle, call 298-5393.



Photo by Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Bumpin’ it

Anthony Russell, CS/CONS/SVS, bumps the volleyball toward the net to return a serve from the MDG team during an intramural volleyball match Tuesday at the XL Fitness Center. Russell’s play resulted in a point for CS/CONS/SVS, but the MDG prevailed in the matchup – winning 25-15 and 25-20.

Around the diamond

Coverage of Laughlin’s intramural softball league

87 FTS - 23, MDG #1 - 0

The 87 FTS scored 11 runs in the first two innings and never looked back, blowing out MDG #1 23-0 in the 7 p.m. intramural softball game June 7 at Babe Ruth field. Strong 87 FTS hitting, coupled with costly MDG #1 errors, led to the game being called after three complete innings.

The win boosted the 87 FTS record to 2-2 on the season, while MDG #1 remained winless at 0-4.

SFS - 15, 84/85 FTS - 11

With a four-run fourth inning, SFS broke open a close game and coasted to a 15-11 victory over the 84/85 FTS in the 8 p.m. intramural softball game June 7. Chris Tomlinson drew a walk to start the fourth for SFS, and advanced to third on a double by Jimmie Davis. Keith Baber then doubled, scoring Tomlinson and advancing Davis to third. A single by Chance Roden drove both men in. SFS added two runs in the bottom of

the fifth inning and withstood a late rally by the 84/85 FTS in the top of the sixth to secure the win.

SFS improved to 2-2 with the win, while 84/85 FTS fell to 0-4.

CES - 17, OSS #1 - 11

With a 5-2 lead after the first inning, CES never looked back, upsetting the previously unbeaten OSS #1 team 17-11 in the 9 p.m. intramural softball game June 7. Benny Baladez ignited CES when he smashed an inside-the-park two-run homer in the first inning on his way to a five-RBI game. CES pitcher Sean McCauley made OSS #1 earn everything, giving up only two walks during the contest. OSS #1 surged to within one run by the top of the fifth inning, but CES got four hits and two walks – and converted that into a six-run explosion to put the game out of reach.

CES bettered its record to 3-1, and OSS #1 fell to 3-1 on the season.

Pilot awards

The graduation awards for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 00-10 were:

Order of Daedalians AETC Commander's Trophy:

2nd Lt. Karl F. Schluter (fighter, bomber)

2nd Lt. Andrew J. Malousek (tanker, airlift)

Outstanding officer:

1st Lt. Allan D. Chunn (tanker, airlift)

Distinguished graduates:

2nd Lt. Karl F. Schluter (fighter, bomber)

2nd Lt. Andrew J. Malousek (tanker, airlift)

Flying training award:

2nd Lt. Karl F. Schluter (fighter, bomber)

2nd Lt. Andrew J. Malousek (tanker, airlift)

Academic training award:

2nd Lt. Scott L. Jones (fighter, bomber)

2nd Lt. Richard R. Geilhausen (tanker, airlift)

Daedalian award:

2nd Lt. Karl F. Schluter (fighter, bomber)

Juneteenth celebration

The Juneteenth Celebration Committee hosts a city-wide celebration Saturday. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration marking the ending of slavery.

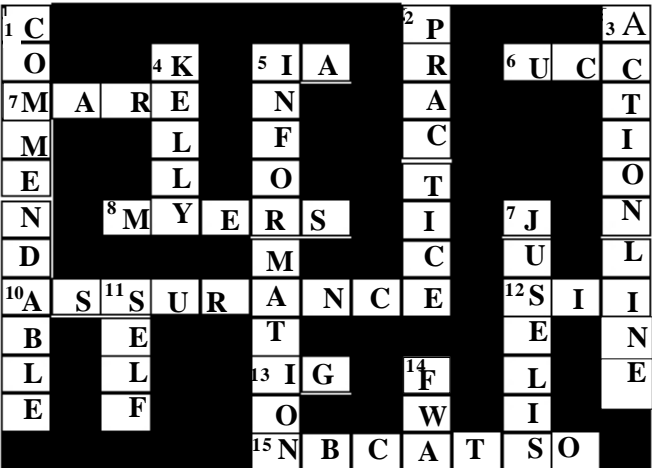
The theme for this year's event will be "A Celebration of Freedom and Diversity."

The day will begin with a parade at 10 a.m. at the corner of Academy and Main St., proceed to the Railroad Station, turn right and proceed down Ogden St. to Moore Park, where the festivities are scheduled to take place.

For more information, call Joni Jordan at 5914 – and see the article on page 9 of this newspaper.

IG crossword puzzle

(Answers from last week)



ACROSS

5. Information Assurance (abbr).
6. Unit Control Center (abbr).
7. Major Accident Response Exercise (abbr).
8. The Alternate IG is Lt. Col. H.F. _____.
10. AF SII 00-2, Information _____.
12. Special Interest Item (abbr).
13. Inspector General (abbr).
15. Nuclear, Biologic, Chemical Ability To Survive and Operate (abbr).

DOWN

1. A _____ item is a highly effective concept, technique or practice better than those found in other units.
2. A Best _____ is a superior method or innovative practice that contributes to improved performance of a process.
3. The _____ (298-5351) is a direct line to the Wing CC and your opportunity to make Laughlin a better place.
4. Lt. Col. Marty _____ is the XP and responsible for exercises.
5. _____ Assurance.
9. The Wing Safety Officer is Lt. Col. Bruce "Juice" _____.
11. _____ Inspection Checklists are available on the web.
14. The _____ hotline (298-4170) is available 24 hours a day to report instances of fraud, waste and abuse.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Head 'em out!

Staff Sgt. Al Hayatt, reservist from Kelly Air Force Base and employee of Laughlin Civil Service Aircraft Maintenance, practices his team roping skills at the base stables Thursday. The base stables are open at any time for use by base members.

Enlisted aide requirement

Headquarters AFPC is looking for enthusiastic applicants to fill positions at Osan Air Base, Korea and Peterson AFB, Colo. Individuals with culinary experience are highly desirable. However, if you possess a "can-do" attitude and have the ability to interact with senior officers, enlisted aide duty may be for you.

Volunteers must be second term, career members in the grade of senior airman or above. First term airmen and selective reenlistment bonus recipients are not eligible to apply.

For more information, call the Military Personnel Flight customer service office at 5277.

Colonel assignments

The Air Force Colonel Matters Office announces the projected vacancies and application procedures for Summer 2001 AFROTC Detachment Commander, Professor of Aerospace Studies positions.

For additional information, call 5244.

Car wash

The Top-3 hosts a car wash Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the base exchange parking lot. Proceeds from the car wash will be used for the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony at the Enlisted Dining Out.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. James Moon at 5372.

Looking to the ORI

(By Lt. Col. Barbara Stewart, 47 FTW inspector general)

70-day checklist

- Commanders: If you haven't had a CC call yet to bring your folks up to speed on your ORI preparation, this is a good time to do so.
- Are your files up to date and purged? There will be a random weight check, so look through your weight management program (personal and squadron level) and make sure you meet the standards.

47 MDSS change of command

The change of command ceremony for the 47th Medical Support Squadron is scheduled for July 7 at 10 a.m. at Club Amistad. Maj. Bruce A. Allen relinquishes his command to Lieutenant Colonel Edward Y. Walker, III.

Medical records copies

As a result of the June 1 Department of Defense Policy requiring total control of government outpatient records, the 47th Medical Group has been inundated with requests for duplicate copies of outpatient medical records. Due to the overwhelming response, patients may experience copying delays. As a reminder, additional copies of medical records will still be provided, but at the expense of the individual requesting the copies.

For more information, call 298-6487.

Rattler Booster Club

The Rattler Booster Club hosts its second "Golf Extravaganza" July 15 at 8 a.m. Profits will go to help support Operation Jingle and the Del Rio Teen Center. Sign up forms are currently available at Leaning Pine Golf Course and the XL Fitness Center.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Michael Morgan at 4344 or Staff Sgt. Thomas Hensley at 5105.

Laughlin new arrivals

■ **Fernando Gabriel Alvarado:** 8 lb. boy born May 31 to Airman 1st Class Juan Alvarado III, 47th Operation Support Squadron, and his wife Bernie. Fernando has a sister, Destiny.

■ **Noah Tyler Mitchell:** 6 lb., 2 oz. boy born June 1 to Airman 1st Class Paul Mitchell, 47 OSS, and his wife Airman 1st Class Allison Mitchell, 47 OSS.